

History

On April 17, 1957, a group of 13 women met at the home of Bess (Mrs. Walter) Oakley to organize a club for women in Big Flats. Their purpose was to “unite women of the community for civic purposes and for the improvement of the Big Flats community”.

In the following years, the Big Flats Women’s Club has been instrumental in establishing the library and a story hour for pre-schoolers. It has helped families in need. It obtained traffic signs for the town, secured zoning laws, and improved town parks.

Fundraising efforts have included fashion shows, teas, historic home tours, and a white elephant booth at Community Days. The Women’s Club ran the kitchen at the long-running Antique Show which supported the Big Flats Historical Society and the

building fund of the (now completed!) Community Center.

Library

The Big Flats branch of the Steele Memorial Library officially opened on the evening of June 14, 1968. Then State Senator William T. Smith was the featured speaker.

Since then, members of the Women’s Club have supported the local library in many ways. Currently each month it provides an interesting and informative display in the glass case. Each year it creates a seasonal basket which is raffled in the community. Among its purchases have been books, children’s furniture, display racks, landscaping, and signage.

New Collaborations

Recently the Women’s Club began working in conjunction with the Big

Flats Library Advocates, which became a 501(c)3 charitable organization in 2006, for the purpose of raising money to purchase books and support programs at the local branch.

The Big Flats Library Advocates meet the third Thursday of most months at the Big Flats Community Center.

~ CHARTER MEMBERS ~

Dorothy Burt
Miriam Damoth
Harriet Easterbrook
Eleanor Henkel
Dorothy Knapp
Mitzi Lederer
Beverly Minier
Eleanor Minier
Bess Oakley
Dorothy Smith
Ruth Welles
Marian Wolcott
Harriet York

~ PAST PRESIDENTS ~

1957-1958 Marjorie Nelson
1958-1959 Eleanor Henkel
1959-1960 Mary Rhodes
1960-1961 Bess Oakley
1961-1962 Marian Wolcott
1962-1963 Dorothy Devenport
1963-1964 Dorothy Smith
1964-1965 Eleanor Minier
1965-1967 Dorothy Doran
1967-1968 Marianne Nutt
1968-1969 Eleanor Patten
1969-1970 June Sparks
1970-1971 Joan Rudd
1971-1972 Pam Farr
1972-1974 Jan Stone
1974-1975 Nancy Nicastro
1975-1976 Sue Flandreau
1976-1977 Mary Jo Pardue
1977-1978 Carol Gardner
1978-1979 Maxine Horton
1979-1982 Norma Griffith
1982-1983 Carol Gardner
1993-1996 Norma Griffith
1997-2006 Karen Estep

Present Day

The Big Flats Women's Club meets the first Wednesday of June and December for a short business meeting and a social evening which includes a "finger food" buffet.

The club welcomes all women who are proud of Big Flats and are interested in supporting it. Please join us to keep the civic spirit active going into the future.

For additional information about the Women's Club, contact Karen Estep, President, at 562-8618.

The
Big
Flats
Women's
Club

